



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

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News Release

HOUSTON ICE FUGITIVE OPERATIONS TEAMS NAB 135 DANGEROUS CRIMINAL ALIENS IN THE HOUSTON AREA IN TWO MONTHS

Some criminal aliens are absconders with criminal records including murder, assault, weapons violations, rape, and drug trafficking and alien smuggling

HOUSTON, Texas—U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Fugitive Operations Officers have arrested 135 criminal aliens and absconders with final orders of deportation since January 2006.

Under ICE's National Fugitive Operations Program (NFOP), which solely dedicates itself to tracking down and apprehending violent criminal aliens and absconders with immigration final orders has had a record start to 2006.

Among those arrested are illegal aliens with criminal violations ranging from rape, murder, aggravated assault of a child, weapons charges, cocaine trafficking, human smuggling, DWI's, burglary, fraud and heroin possession.

Some arrested by ICE's NFOP teams include:

- On Jan. 6, 2006, Ana Elizabeth Cabrera-Benavidez, 27, a national from Guatemala was convicted of murder in May 2002 in Harris County. It is unknown how or where she entered the United States illegally. She is currently in removal proceedings.
- On February 10, 2006, Elvira Torres-Bautista, 48, a Mexican national entered the United States illegally in March of 1995. An immigration judge ordered her deported in Aug. 1997. That same year she was stopped by U.S. Customs agents near Del Rio, Texas transporting 25 pounds of marijuana, and \$7,800 in currency. She was convicted and sentenced to five years of probation and lost her Legal Permanent Resident status in Aug. 2005. Torres-Bautista is awaiting a deportation date.

- On February 23, 2006, arrested Pauline Popoca, 62, a Mexican national in Houston. Popoca entered the United States as a Legal Permanent Resident in April 1989. In April 1992 he was convicted of human smuggling and was jailed for 60 days. An immigration judge revoked his legal residence status and ordered him deported Oct. 2005. The deportation process was lengthy due to Popoca appealing his case. The deportation is pending.
- On Feb. 24 Ulises Hernandez was arrested by the NFOP at his residence. Hernandez, 36, a national from El Salvador entered the United States illegally near Brownsville, Texas in 1990. In 1993 an immigration judge ordered him deported in absentia. He had been convicted on charges of disorderly intoxication, and for distribution of cocaine in 1996 and 1997. In 2003, he was arrested again for first-degree assault.

“Criminal aliens are potential threats to our communities and our nation’s security aside from having no legal right to remain in the United States. ICE has an effective Fugitive Operations team responsible for identifying, apprehending and deporting these dangerous criminal aliens from our streets,” said Kenneth L. Landgrebe, Field Office Director for the Detention and Removal Program.

ICE Detention and Removal Operations mission is to promote the public safety and national security by ensuring the departure from the United States of all removable aliens through the fair and effective enforcement of the nation’s immigration laws.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.